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On the Mountain Peak

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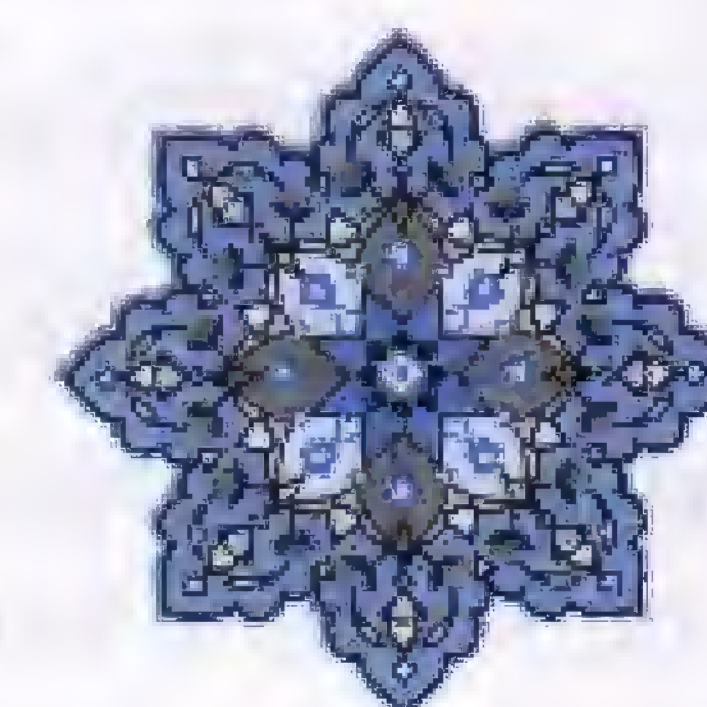
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful*

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Publisher's Note

In the Name of Allah, the Most Merciful, the Granter of Mercy.

All praises belong and are due to Allah, the Lord of the worlds. May prayers and salutations be sent on the noblest of all messengers, our leader, Muhammad, his family and Companions.

This book was written by the esteemed Shaykh, Dr. Muhammad Al- 'Arifi, may Allah protect him.

We have, to the best of our ability referenced the *ahadith* quoted by the speaker to their original places in the books of *hadith*. We have also divided up the lecture into various headings, to make it easier for readers to follow.

We ask Allah, the Sublime and Exalted, to allow everyone to benefit from it and not to deprive us of the reward, for surely Allah is Ever Munificent and Most Generous. All praises belong to Allah, the Lord of the worlds.

Abdul Malik Mujahid
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Competing for Allah's Pleasure

If you want to contemplate the affairs of the pious, come with me to the city of Madinah. Look at the poor people, like Abu Hurairah, Salman Al-Farisi, Abu Dharr and Bilal ibn Rabaah ؓ.

They went to the Prophet ﷺ to complain about the rich people. Why did they do this? Was it because the food of the wealthy was better than theirs; that they wore better clothes; or that their houses were more luxurious? Definitely not! Their problem was far beyond worldly gains.

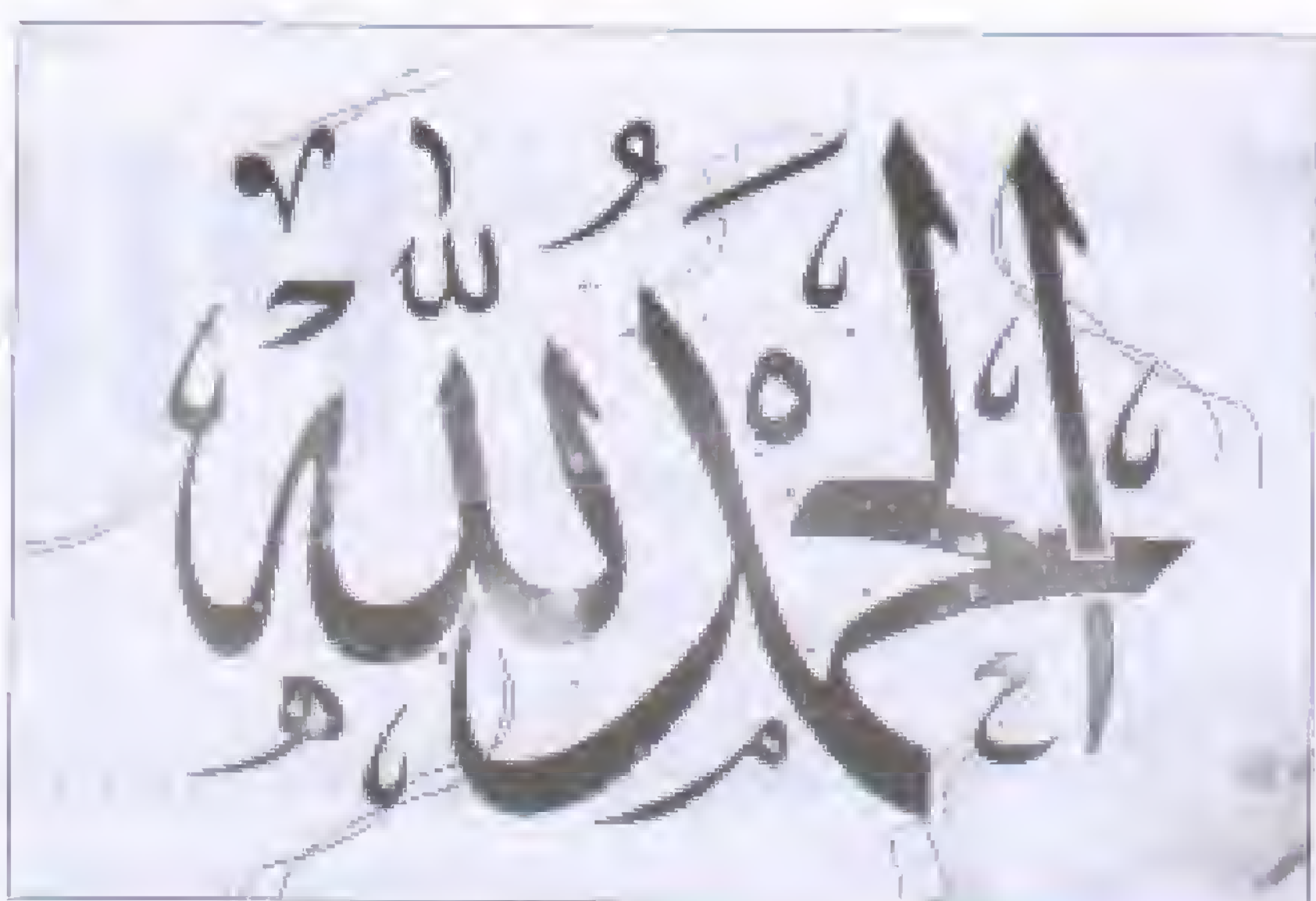
They went to the Prophet ﷺ and said: "O Messenger of Allah, we came to complain about the rich." He said: "What is it?" They said: "The wealthy people will achieve higher grades and will have permanent enjoyment; and they pray and fast like us as we do. They have more money with

which they perform the Hajj, and 'Umrah; fight and struggle in Allah's cause and give in charity."

The Prophet ﷺ said: "Shall I not tell you a thing upon which if you acted you would catch up with those who have surpassed you? Nobody would overtake you and you would be better than the people amongst whom you live except those who would do the same? Say 'Glory be to Allah', 'Praise be to Allah' and 'Allah is Great' thirty-three times each after every (compulsory) prayer."

The poor people were very happy. When they completed their prayers, they would say the words that the Prophet ﷺ taught them. When the rich people heard what had happened, they also started praying the same way. Abu Bakr, 'Abdul Rahman ibn 'Awf and Az-Zubair ibn Al-'Awwaam ﷺ also praised Allah in this manner.

The poor people returned to the Prophet ﷺ and said:



"O Messenger of Allah, our rich brothers know what you taught us and they do the same. Teach us something else. He said: "That is the Grace of Allah, which He bestows on whom He wills."

Surely, the following verse applies to them,

﴿إِنَّهُمْ كَانُوا يُسْرِعُونَ فِي الْخَيْرَاتِ وَيَدْعُونَنَا رَغَبًا وَرَهَبًا وَكَانُوا لَنَا خَشِيعِينَ﴾

"Verily, they used to hasten on to do good deeds, and they used to call on Us with hope and fear, and used to humble themselves before Us."²

The main concern of these righteous people was to do good deeds. Consider the two great and outstanding Companions Abu Bakr and 'Umar ﷺ.

'Umar ﷺ used to say: "I wish I could race Abu Bakr and win one day (in doing good deeds)."

'Umar ibn Al-Khattab ﷺ narrated: "The Messenger of Allah ordered us to give charity and it happened that I had some gold and silver available at that time. I said to myself that today I want to be ahead of Abu Bakr so I presented half of my money for donation. The Messenger of Allah said: 'What did you leave for your family?' I replied: 'An equal amount.' Abu Bakr then came with all of his money, and the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said to him: 'What did you leave to your family?' Abu Bakr replied: 'I left them in the care of Allah and His Messenger.' I said to Abu Bakr, 'You will always be ahead of me.'"

1 Saheeh Al-Bukhari, Hadeeth:843, Saheeh Ibn Khuzaimah, Hadeeth: 749

2 Al-Anbiya 21: 90

'I only seek Paradise'

When Rabi'ah ibn Ka'b Al-Aslami ؓ was a young, enthusiastic boy, he used to take water to the Prophet ﷺ for his ablution. One day, the Prophet ﷺ wanted to reward him and said, "Ask something of me." Rabi'ah ؓ said, "I ask for your company in Paradise." The Prophet ﷺ said, "Anything else?" Rabi'ah ؓ said, "I only want that." The Prophet ﷺ said, "Help me by performing a lot of prostration." (Reported by Muslim). Despite his youth, Rabi'ah ؓ would then often be seen praying or prostrating. He never wasted a single moment nor missed a congregational prayer.

Whenever the companions learned about any type of virtue, they would adhere to it. Allah made them taste His love and they enjoyed supplicating to Him. Because they were conscious of Allah in their deeds, He purified their hearts and adorned them with His mercy. They tasted the blessing of Paradise before entering it. The Prophet ﷺ said, "When Allah wants goodness for His slave, He occupies

him with work." The companions asked, "And how does He occupy him with work?" The Prophet ﷺ said, "He grants him the ability and opportunity to do righteous deeds before his death, then He takes his soul in that state."

So, if Allah loves someone, He enables him to worship Him. He makes him live for his religion and not only for himself. He makes him call upon Allah, enjoining good, forbidding evil, caring for Muslims, and advising them. For such a person, the women and men - whether in Chechnya, Afghanistan, China and Kashmir - are like his beloved mothers, daughters, sisters and brothers. He feels their pain and rejoices when they are happy. You can see him preaching to his brothers and affecting people wherever he goes.

“He grants him the ability and opportunity to do righteous deeds before his death, then He takes his soul in that state.”

If he sees evil, his heart feels regret and he weeps. He would prefer to endure great pain than to see people disobey Allah. He uses all his abilities to advise people, and guide them to the right path, regardless of the consequences. Contemplate the affairs of the prophets and the righteous. Look at Prophets Ibrahim ؑ, Hud ؑ, Sulaiman ؑ, Shu'aib ؑ, Ayoub ؑ and 'Isa ؑ. Look how they served the religion.

Listen to Prophet Nuh ؑ complaining,

﴿قَالَ رَبِّ إِنِّي دَعَوْتُ قَوْمِي لَيْلًا وَنَهَارًا ﴿٥﴾ فَلَمْ يَزِدْهُمْ دُعَايَ إِلَّا فِرَارًا ﴿٦﴾ وَإِنِّي كُلَّمَا دَعَوْتُهُمْ لِتَغْفِرَ لَهُمْ جَعَلُوا أَصْوَعًا ﴿٧﴾ فِيءَآذَانِهِمْ وَأَسْتَغْفِرُوا

Carrying the Message

Imam Muslim reports that Allah's Messenger ﷺ said: "Whoever invites towards guidance (hidayah) and virtuous deeds, his reward will be equivalent to the rewards of all those people who follow him, without diminishing their reward in any respect."

A caller to Allah told me that one day a man knocked on his door in the middle of the night. He said, "I went out to investigate and saw a young man who appeared to have committed a sin. I was very disturbed and asked him, 'What do you want?'"

"He said, 'Are you sheikh ...?' I said, 'Yes.'"

"He said, 'O sheikh, here are two men who embraced Islam at my hands and I do not know what to do with them.' I said to myself: 'This young man might have drunk something or taken a drug and is not in his right mind.'"

"I said to him: 'Where are these two men?'"

"He said, 'They are with me in the car.' I went with him to his car and when I got there I found two Indian workers waiting. I said to them: 'Are you Muslims?'"

"They said: 'Yes, praise be to Allah, we are Muslims. Allah is the Greatest.' I looked at the young man and said to him: 'Have they converted to Islam at your hands? How did that happen?'"

"He said: 'They are working in a workshop and I kept an eye on them until they embraced Islam.'"

Now, everything that those two people do, such as prayer, will be in this young man's record of good deeds.

"And who is better in speech than he who invites to Allah and does righteous deeds?"

A pious person told me that he saw Sheikh Bin Baaz (may Allah have mercy upon him) in a dream after his death. The man said, "I asked the sheikh about a beneficial deed?" The man said that the sheikh raised his hand, shook it, and said, 'Call people to Islam! Call people to Islam!' He kept repeating it until he disappeared."

Calling people to Allah is not a difficult task. Many people have been guided after being given a useful audio tape, sincere advice, or a short message. A few days ago, I received a four-page message from a young British man in which he wrote about his sins and lack of guidance.

“The man said that Sheikh Bin Baaz raised his hand, shook it, and said, ‘Call people to Islam! Call people to Islam!’ He kept repeating it until he disappeared.”

Taking Action Against Evil

When immorality increases and acts of worship decrease, the Lord of the heavens and the earth gets angry and punishes people. When evil deeds are committed, lands will be destroyed, humans will perish, and people will become like beasts.

Moreover, when people do wrong, this harms both the evil doers and the righteous ones. Allah the Almighty says,

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا اسْتَجِيبُوا لِلَّهِ وَلِلرَّسُولِ إِذَا دَعَاكُمْ لِمَا يُحْيِيكُمْ وَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّهُ اللَّهُ يَحُولُ بَيْنَ الْمَرْءِ وَقَلْبِهِ وَأَنَّهُ إِلَٰهُهُ خَشَرُونَ ﴿٢٤﴾ وَاتَّقُوا فِتْنَةً لَا تُصِيبَنَّ الَّذِينَ ظَلَمُوا مِنْكُمْ خَاصَّةً وَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّ اللَّهَ شَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ﴾

"O you who believe! Answer Allah (by obeying Him) and (His) Messenger when he calls you to that which will give you life, and know that Allah comes in between a person and his heart (i.e. He prevents an evil person to decide anything). And verily to Him you shall (all) be gathered. And fear the Fitnah (affliction and trial, etc.) which affects not in particular (only) those of you who do wrong (but

it may afflict all the good and the bad people), and know that Allah is Severe in punishment."¹

In his book entitled, *At-Tamheed*, Ibn 'Abdul Barr mentioned that Allah the Almighty ordered Jibreel to destroy a city because of the evildoers who lived there. Jibreel said, "O Allah, there is a person in the city who has never disobeyed You." Allah said, "Destroy him as well, because he was not offended by their evildoing (he did not forbid evil or promote good)."

“O Allah, there is a person in the city who has never disobeyed You.” Allah said, “Destroy him as well, because he was not offended by their evildoing (he did not forbid evil or promote good).”

It is authentically reported through Ahmad and At-Tirmidhi that the Prophet ﷺ said, "By the one whose hand my soul is in, clearly you must command the ma'ruf (good), and you must forbid the munkar (evil), otherwise Allah will send upon you a punishment, and you will supplicate and ask Him, and He will not respond to you."

It is also authentically reported in the *musnad* of Imam Ahmad that the Prophet ﷺ said, "Whenever sins are committed and the others, who are greater in number and stronger than the evildoers, do not prevent them, Allah will inflict them with punishment."

¹ Al-Anfal 8:24-25

The Mountain Peak

The pinnacle of the mountain for all good Muslims will be to enter the gardens and rivers (of Paradise). They will happily take their place in the seat of truth, near the Omnipotent King (Allah, the All-Blessed, the Most High, the Owner of Majesty and Honor).

"How honorable is dwelling with mates,

In Paradise, and that's indeed the best company,

How great is neighborhood to persons of repute,

They will have the pleasure of seeing the Lord,

And listen with delight to His Sublime Word,

With silk brocade being their main garment,

They have their heads crowned with finest crowns,

Inlaid with ornate pearls and

rare moonstones,

Or silver that is made of only pure gold,

And golden rings and bracelets molded,

Of silver and prettily adorned forearms,

Their served food is soft bird meat,

The finest of camel that feed on all sorts,

And bowls of precious pearls and gold,

Strewn, as seventy thousand, on a thousand tables,

If you feel a thirst and desirous for these,

As much as an exile who yearns for home,

Be as charitable as you can and then you will

Be rewarded for good with that which is best,

Prepare for the Gardens of Eden and all

The blessings of it that surely never cease,

